

# First records of the White-tailed Nightjar *Caprimulgus cayennensis* in Ecuador

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The White-tailed Nightjar *Caprimulgus cayennensis* is known from Costa Rica to Colombia and Venezuela, northern Brazil, the Lesser Antilles, Aruba to Bonaire, Trinidad, and Tobago (Meyer de Schauensee 1970, Meyer de Schauensee & Phelps 1978). Here we report the first specimen and our additional sight records of *C. cayennensis* from Ecuador. There are apparently no previous records from Ecuador.

On 17 October 1983, C.G.S. collected a male *C. cayennensis* (LSUMZ 112511) at 6 km (by road) north of Salinas, Rio Palacara Valley, 1425 m, (0°30'N, 78°08'W), Prov. Imbabura; testes 12 × 7 mm, Cream coloured; no fat; wt. 40.0 g; bill Dusky Brown; tarsi and toes Flesh Colour (capitalized colour names from Smithe 1975, 1981); total length 233 mm; no body moult. The stomach contained 5 whole beetles (Coleoptera) 10–15 mm in length.

We also saw and heard other *C. cayennensis* at this site on 19 and 20 October 1983, when individuals were observed foraging at dusk 3–7 m above the ground during continuous flight. The specimen collected and 2 other individuals were observed foraging and then flying to the ground. Our records in northwestern Ecuador represent a range extension of c. 275 km south of known locality records in southern Colombia described by Hilty & Brown (1986).

Hilty & Brown (1986) noted that *C. cayennensis* was common on eroded, dry hillsides with scattered bushes and thickets between Cali and the Pichindé Valley in southwestern Colombia. Our observations of *C. cayennensis* were in xeromorphic scrubland with relatively sparse ground-cover in the Rio Palacara Valley near its junction with the larger Rio Mira. This portion of the Rio Palacara Valley has deeply cut and severely eroded arroyos. The valley slopes are steep and rocky, with much bare ground. The vegetation on the slopes and drier parts of the floodplain included *Prosopis* spp., *Acacia* spp., *Opuntia* spp., species of columnar cacti, and numerous species of unidentified shrubs and herbaceous plants. The floodplain of the Rio Palacara Valley in this area has scattered agricultural clearings, and near these clearings, *Prosopis* spp. and *Acacia* spp. form fairly dense stands along irrigation ditches. There are also bands of varying widths of riparian vegetation that parallel the Rio Palacara and adjacent irrigation drainage ditches.

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## Notes on the iris colour in females of two manakins (Pipridae)

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Plumage peculiarities whereby adult female manakins exhibit 'male-like' plumages have been summarized by Graves (1981) who also pointed out that "sex determination on the basis of iris colouration in female or immature plumaged manakin is not reliable". In reviewing recent publications on Neotropical birds in search of descriptions of the iris colour of females or immature manakins occurring in northeastern South America it became evident that some of the information available in the literature, either in the text or from colour illustrations, can be incomplete or even contradictory (Hilty & Brown 1986, Meyer de Schauensee & Phelps 1978, Ridgely 1976). On the other hand, few other authors have reported on the iris colouration of female manakins. This note describes the iris colour of females of the Crimson-hooded Manakin *Pipra aureola* and of the Golden-headed Manakin *P. erythrocephala*. The data were recorded in Venezuela and Guyane française on live birds later meticulously sexed during dissection (Table 1) and from the examination of a number of specimens in various collections.

The iris colour of the 4 females in Table 1 varies in hues of white, but is basically 'white'. Similar findings were made in 6 females in the Carnegie Museum, where the label data indicate that the basic 'white' of the iris ranges through "pure white", "rose-white", "green white", and "bright yellow white" to "leaden white". The white iris of 7 males varies also in a similar manner and is "white". These findings emphasize that the iris colour of female *Pipra aureola* is at times inaccurately depicted in